

## Stimulus News You Can Use

WSDOT's informal weekly update about the  
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act)

Wednesday, October 28, 2009



### The stimulus story this week

The national stimulus webpage, [Recovery.gov](http://Recovery.gov), will publish its first comprehensive accountability report on stimulus spending on October 30. The reports will cover highway, transit, aviation, and other stimulus projects, including education and water projects. New employment data shows workers on state and local Recovery Act highway projects earned over \$10.4 million in September for a total of \$29.1 million to date. Nine more highway projects were reported complete this week, for a total of 59 completed to date.

### This week by the numbers (project dollars in millions):

<i>Individual highway projects</i>	State	Local	Total	Notes
<b>Total funds</b>	\$340	\$152	\$492	
<b>Obligated funds<sup>1</sup></b>	\$222.6 (65%)	\$133.6 (88%)	\$356.2 (72%)	Funds FHWA approved All funds must be obligated by March 1, 2010
<b>Projects certified</b>	39 (100%)	153 (100%)	192 (100%)	
<b>Projects obligated</b>	36 (92%)	140 (92%)	176 (92%)	FHWA has approved some or all funds for the projects
<b>Project delivery to date</b>				
<b>Operationally complete</b>	16 (41%)	43 (28%)	59 (31%)	Nine projects reported complete this week
<b>Awarded/under way<sup>2</sup></b>	30 (77%)	136 (89%)	166 (86%)	Includes completed projects
<b>Advertised</b>	31 (79%)	138 (90%)	169 (88%)	Includes completed and awarded projects
<b>Certified, awaiting advertisement</b>	7 (18%)	15 (10 %)	22 (11%)	These projects, including several receiving surplus funds, are planned for upcoming advertisement
<b>Safety funding buckets (\$12 stimulus)</b>	<b>Rumble strips</b>	<b>Cable median barrier</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Completed</b>	10	0	10	Includes only state Recovery Act funds
<b>Awarded</b>	17	7	24	Includes only state Recovery Act funds
<b>Advertised</b>	27	7	34	Includes only state Recovery Act funds
<b>Transit projects</b>	<b>Large urban</b>	<b>Small urban</b>	<b>Nonurban/rural</b>	<b>State total/Notes</b>
<b>Percent of total \$179 awarded</b>	97%	97%	100%	98%
<b>Number of transit projects obligated</b>	33 of 35	18 of 19	20 of 20	52 of 55 FTA counts all rural projects as one project
<b>September employment</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Payroll</b>	\$5.1	\$5.3	\$10.4	Over \$29.1 million to date Average wage is \$37/hour

September employment	State	Local	Total	Notes
Hours	132,602	148,325	280,927	Employees have worked 776,908 hours to date
FTEs	767	857	1,624	FTE = 173 hours per month
Individuals paid in part or total with stimulus funds	2,201	4,437	6,638	Note: Not a count of unique employees.
<sup>1</sup> \$4M in state enhancement funds provided to locals. While WSDOT controls \$340M, the total for obligation authority is \$344M, which is the basis of the percentages in this table, and basis for USDOT Review on 3/01/10.				
<sup>2</sup> This includes one state project that has stimulus funding authorized for pre-construction and is currently under way.				

## Key issues: State

- Workers earned \$10.4 million in September** – Employees worked 280,927 hours and earned \$10,437,551 in September. It was the busiest month yet for workers as payroll increased \$1.1 million (12%) and labor hours increased by almost 29,000 hours (11%) from August. Workers earned an average of \$37 per hour.
  - WSDOT reports state and local employment data on Recovery Act projects each month. See the table above for more September employment data.
- Construction began October 26 on I-405 Auxiliary Lane project** – Contractor crews broke ground October 26 on the project to add a 1.8 mile auxiliary lane on northbound I-405 between NE 195<sup>th</sup> Street and State Route 527 in Canyon Park. The project will increase the northbound evening driving speeds by 25 to 30 mph and reduce collisions for northbound I-405 commuters. The stimulus funds helped advance the project which was previously not scheduled to be complete until 2015.
- Nine more highway projects completed** – WSDOT and local governments reported nine more projects complete this week, including the first two completed Tier 2 projects. Tier 2 projects are extra projects funded with surplus Recovery Act funds due to low bids and other savings on earlier projects. The first completed state Tier 2 project paved a section of I-90 near Moses Lake and the first completed local Tier 2 project provided improvements on 5 Mile Rd in Spokane County.
  - [WSDOT – I-90/Moses Lake - Paving](#)
  - [Spokane County – 5 Mile + Strong Rd. Project 2](#)
  - [Toppenish – Washington Ave Improvements](#)
  - [Moxee – Beaudry Road Improvements](#)
  - [Harrah – Harrah Road Improvements](#)
  - [College Place – Whitman Drive Multi Use Path](#)
  - [Stanwood – 68<sup>th</sup> Road Realignment and School Safety](#)
  - [Island County – Roadway Preservation](#)
  - [Spokane Valley – Sprague Avenue Resurfacing Project #1](#)

- **Cable median barrier safety project awarded** – The seventh stimulus-funded cable median barrier project was awarded on October 27. The project will help reduce crossover collisions by installing cable median barriers on a portion of SR 8 near Elma in Grays Harbor and Thurston Counties.

## **Key issues: National**

- **New accountability report to be released October 30** – The White House Office of Management and Budget is preparing to release its first quarterly stimulus accountability report on October 30. Each project can be searched and viewed online at [Recovery.gov](http://Recovery.gov). The Washington Recovery website will also publish data on the projects at [www.recovery.wa.gov](http://www.recovery.wa.gov). The report is the latest form of accountability reporting for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, following regular reports to the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. A link to the data will be available on WSDOT's federal reporting [webpage](#).
- **Washington governments submitted 49 applications for TIGER Grants** – Governments across Washington prepared more than four dozen applications for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grants, a \$1.5 billion pool of Recovery Act funds. The U.S. Department of Transportation received 1,380 applications totaling \$56.5 billion from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and three territories. Washington State submitted a total of 49 applications seeking over \$1.65 billion, including three [WSDOT proposals](#) seeking \$482 million. The award decisions must be made by February 17, 2010, and could be announced later this year.
  - States are eligible to receive up to \$300 million.
  - Ten states sought more funding than Washington. A summary is available [here](#).
- **Recovery Act highway projects under construction nationwide** – The FHWA [website](#) reported that 4,845 stimulus projects costing \$12.8 billion are under construction in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and on federal lands. The FHWA has obligated nearly 19.8 billion of \$26.8 billion (74%) to 8,226 projects.

## **Stimulus project of the week**

### **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms benefit from Recovery Act projects**

[Disadvantaged Business Enterprises](#) (DBE) is a program to increase the opportunities for qualified minority and women-owned small businesses to participate in federally-funded projects, such as the Recovery Act projects. For some DBE firms, those opportunities would be lost without knowing what resources are available to them. That's where WSDOT's [Office of Equal Opportunity](#) (OEO) has stepped up to help DBE firms participate successfully.

“One of the ways we can help disadvantaged, minority and women-owned businesses is by providing them opportunities to meet with prime contractors,” said WSDOT Office of Equal Opportunity Director Brenda Nnambi. “We host events that draw in both prime contractors and DBE subcontractors so that they can network and begin building work relationships. The events also give us a venue to talk about WSDOT’s programs and other assistance and resources that are available to them.”

WSDOT is hosting a Contractor Meet & Greet event on October 30. The event not only offers networking opportunities for prime contractors and subcontractors, but will also include breakout sessions on the new Recovery Act Bonding Assistance program. To reserve a spot, RSVP to [DBESS@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:DBESS@wsdot.wa.gov). The event will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at: South Seattle Community College - Georgetown Campus, Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center, Apprenticeship & Education Center, 6737 Corson Avenue South, Seattle.



Targeted outreach is helping firms to benefit from federal assistance programs. One of Washington's DBE/MBE firms, Cates & Erb, Inc. received the first eligible ARRA Bonding Assistance award in the nation on September 25, 2009. The Recovery Act provided \$20 million for DBE bonding assistance. The funds can be used to reimburse small and disadvantaged companies for bonding fees and payments. The award to Cates & Erb was in the amount of \$13,000 for a \$979,000 bond. Cates & Erb is a Native American-owned firm that applied for Recovery Act Bonding Assistance for the [Oroville](#) and [Omak](#) local projects on which they are the prime contractor.

Outreach efforts assist contractors and DBE subcontractors in making the necessary connections to deliver ARRA projects. For the 33 WSDOT-administered ARRA contracts that have been awarded, every prime contractor who made a commitment to hire DBE firms for a percentage of the work has met or exceeded their [DBE goal](#).

## **Important dates**

- **October 30:** [Recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov) to publish OMB performance reports online
- **October 30:** WSDOT DBE contractor meet & greet event (see above)
- **November 10:** Washington's second monthly performance report due
- **January 10:** Next quarterly report due to OMB
- **February 17:** Deadline for the U.S. Department of Transportation to announce TIGER grants and High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail awards (both are expected earlier)
- **March 1:** Deadline for obligating federal highway funds

## **Websites of interest**

- WSDOT Recovery Act website: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/funding/stimulus>
- Washington Recovery Act website: <http://www.recovery.wa.gov/>
- Federal Recovery Act website: <http://www.recovery.gov/>
- FHWA recovery site: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/economicrecovery/index.htm>
- Federal Transit Administration recovery site: [www.fta.dot.gov/recovery](http://www.fta.dot.gov/recovery)
- Federal Rail Administration recovery site: [www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/2153](http://www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/2153)
- Federal Aviation Administration recovery site: <http://www.faa.gov/recovery>
- OMB recovery website: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/recovery\\_default/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/recovery_default/)